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what becomes at times a perplexing maze of Alaskan Indian place names. The main scientific information contained in the volume, however, is included in the appendices by Alfred H. Brooks and Charles Sheldon. The former contributes a sketch of the geology in the Mt. McKinley region so far as it is known, and his article on railway routes in Alaska, which appeared originally in the "National Geographic Magazine." Mr. Sheldon's contributions are on the biological and ethnographic side from data collected by himself.

The one marring feature of the whole story appears in the astonishingly cruel and needless abandonment of the worn-out horses, to whatever fate they might find in an Arctic winter on the frozen tundra. No criticism can be too severe in condemning without qualification of any kind such an inhuman course on the part of the explorer. With his success, his life in fact, dependent on the service of his pack animals, the explorer is commonly accustomed to show them every kindness possible. Dr. Cook pleads the poor excuse that no member of the party had the heart to kill animals which had served them so faithfully, but the universal verdict will be that a bullet bringing quiet death would have indicated a far greater degree of merciful kindness.

Aside from this one unpleasant aspect of the narrative, the book as a whole makes decidedly interesting reading, at times affording powerfully impressive word pictures of the marvels of nature revealed to the party. Frequent excellent illustrations from photographs give some idea of the beauties of scenery, and also the difficulties of travel, which will be the reward of any following the same course.

Few who read the book will be inclined to believe that the goal was worth the trouble, though all will admire the indomitable perseverance which attained "to the top of the continent."

WALTER S. TOWER.

University of Pennsylvania.

Curtin, J. *The Mongols.* Pp. xxiv, 426. Price, \$3.00. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1908.

This posthumous volume from the pen of one of the leading students of Eastern history represents the fruits of years of patient labor, until death cut short a most notable career and removed one of the foremost of American scholars. The greatest work of this great author was his study of the rise and decadence of the mighty Mongol Empire. The present volume brings the narrative to about the fifteenth century, when the founders of the Ming dynasty had finally driven the Mongol horde from China. Much of the volume is given over to a description of the campaigns and conquests made by Jinghis-Khan, and his successors, in China, Russia, Arabia, and Persia. The array of facts not readily accessible elsewhere, which the author has assembled and welded into a connected story of the barbarian empire, is truly remarkable, making the volume a valuable contribution to readable accounts of Russian and Chinese history.

The most remarkable aspect of the book, however, is the fascination of the story found in the evolution of these wild herdsmen into the most terrible

horsemen, tireless, cruel, invincible, before whom all the world cowered in horror. Covering incredible distances, with an extraordinary aptitude for military organization, savagely ruthless in their cruelty, they crushed everything in their path, in a conquest that was as a scourge for every place they entered. The vivid description of the battles, particularly those fought by the great Jinghis-Khan, with a picturing worthy of an epic, makes the book intensely interesting, aside from its historical value. It is a book which can be read with pleasure or used profitably as an aid in arriving at a full understanding of the historical development of Eastern Europe and Asia.

An elaborate index, an unusually detailed topical table of contents and a good map still further enhance the worth of a valuable book.

WALTER S. TOWER.

University of Pennsylvania.

Ireland, Alleyne. *The Province of Burma.* Two volumes. Pp. xxxvii, 1023.

Price, \$25.00. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

The publication of these two volumes on Burma marks the beginning of a series of studies on Colonial administration in the Far East. The thoroughness with which the work is done and the detailed character of the information given show that the series will become a veritable treasure house for those studying the governmental problems of tropical dependencies.

Mr. Ireland has been engaged in the preparation of these studies since 1901, when he was appointed Colonial Commissioner of the University of Chicago. He has been aided by the foreign and colonial offices of the various home countries, which have placed at his disposal complete files of the various official documents. In addition the leading secondary works have been drawn upon to supply material not covered in the official publications and to give variant points of view.

Twelve volumes are planned, of which ten are to be devoted to a presentation of the facts in the different dependencies with comparatively little critical comment. The last two volumes, which promise to make the most important of the contributions to the discussion of colonial problems are to be given over to a comparative study of the administrative systems and of the results achieved.

In order to make the comparison of the greatest use a uniform method of treatment is adopted in discussing each colony. The subjects treated indicate the thoroughness with which the field is covered. They are, 1, how the dependency acquired its present status, 2, character of the relation to the home government, 3, form of government in force, 4, general character of the territory and people, 5, general administrative mechanism, 6, departmental mechanism, 7, method of selecting government officials, 8, system of legislation, 9, methods of finance, 10, land tenure, 11, local government, 12, internal and external trade, 13, results obtained through administrative activity. The method of investigation proposed—the digesting of the literature both official and secondary—reduces the possibility of *ex parte* opinions to a minimum. The careful selection of extended quotations from the best authors places